

Serial No. 10/692,621
Amdt. dated April 1, 2005
Reply to Office Action of January 14, 2005

Attorney Docket No. CS23258RL

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1, 3 through 12, and 14 through 17 remain in this application. Claims 2 and 13 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, and claims 1 and 9 have been amended.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 6 through 9, 11, 12, 14, 15 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0104839 A1 to Kraft, et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,223,059 to Haestrup. Also, claims 2, 5, 10, 13 and 16 are objected to as being dependent upon a requested base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 1 and 9 are hereby amended to include all limitations of allowable claims 2 and 13 (now canceled) and, thus, are now in condition for allowance. Likewise, claims 3 through 8, 10 through 12, and 14 through 17 depend from and include all limitations of independent claims 1 and 9 as amended and, thus, are also in condition for allowance. In view of the above, reconsideration and withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection of claims 1, 3, 4, 6 through 9, 11, 12, 14, 15 and 17 and the objection to claims 5, 10 and 16 are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

No amendment made was related to the statutory requirements of patentability unless expressly stated herein. Also, no amendment made was for the purpose of narrowing the scope of any claim, unless Applicants have argued herein that such amendment was made to distinguish over a particular reference or combination of references.

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The Commissioner is hereby authorized to deduct any additional fees arising as a result of this response, including any fees for Extensions of Time, or any other communication from or to credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-2117.

It is submitted that the claims clearly define the invention, are supported by the specification and drawings, and are in a condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Should the Examiner have any questions or concerns that may expedite prosecution of the present application, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,
Mirkin, Eugene A., et al.



04/01/05

Date

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